

**What is Claimed is:**

- 1 A surgical ratchet having a handle, a driver received within the handle in a rotatable relationship with respect thereto, a ratcheting mechanism interposed between the handle and driver, and a locking mechanism releasably holding the handle to the ratchet mechanism, wherein unlocking of the locking mechanism enables ready disassembly of the ratchet mechanism from the handle.
- 2 The ratchet of claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a ring rotatable on the handle, the ring having a surface selectively biasing a ball into or out of a recess to engage or disengage the ratchet mechanism to lock or unlock the assembly.
- 3 The ratchet of claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a surface against which a user may apply pressure to effectuate a change in interactivity of components in order to engage or disengage the ratchet mechanism to lock or unlock the assembly.
- 4 The ratchet of claim 1, wherein a selector enables a user to activate, disactivate, or lock the ratcheting mechanism.
- 5 The ratchet of claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism is comprised of a selector having a position in which at least one pawl is in an engaged position, wherein, when the selector is in the engaged position, the at least one pawl locks the ratchet mechanism against free movement in a selected direction.
- 6 The ratchet of claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism is comprised of a selector having a position in which at least one pawl is in a released position, wherein, when the selector is in the released position, the at least one pawl disengages the ratchet mechanism, thus permitting free motion in either direction.

- 7 The ratchet of claim 1, wherein a portion of the driver protrudes from an end of the handle, thereby presenting an impactation surface enabling the ratchet to be used as an impactor.
- 8 The ratchet of claim 1, wherein the ratcheting mechanism comprises
- (a) a housing in which left and right hand pawls are pivotably connected and selectively pivotably engageable by a cam selection device for selection of a ratcheting direction; and
  - (b) a toothed hub connected, at least indirectly, to the handle.
- 9 The ratchet of claim 8, wherein the cam selection device comprises a cam having a cam surface against which an end of the at least one pawl rides and wherein relative movement of the cam surface to the end of the at least one pawl causes the pawl to pivot in a prescribed manner.
- 10 The ratchet of claim 8, wherein an end of the at least one pawl engaging the toothed hub is formed so as to permit relative rotation with respect to the hub in one rotational direction, and to block rotation in the opposite rotational direction.
- 11 A surgical ratchet having a handle, a driver received within the handle in a rotatable relationship with respect thereto, a ratcheting mechanism interposed between the handle and driver, and a locking mechanism releasably holding the handle to the ratchet mechanism,
- wherein the locking mechanism comprises a ring rotatable on the handle, the ring having a surface which selectively biases a ball into or out of a recess to engage or disengage the ratchet mechanism to lock or unlock the assembly, whereby unlocking of the locking mechanism enables ready disassembly of the ratchet mechanism from the handle,

wherein the ratcheting mechanism comprises

(a) a housing in which left and right hand pawls are pivotably connected and selectively pivotably engageable by a cam selection device for selection of a ratcheting direction, the cam selection device comprising a cam having a cam surface against which an end of the at least one pawl rides and wherein relative movement of the cam surface to the end of the at least one pawl causes the pawl to pivot in a prescribed manner;

(b) a toothed hub connected, at least indirectly, to the handle, and

(c) a selector which has a position in which at least one pawl is in an engaged position, wherein, when the selector is in the engaged position, the at least one pawl locks the ratchet mechanism against free movement in a selected direction, thus enabling a user to activate, deactivate, or lock the ratcheting mechanism.

12 The ratchet of any of the foregoing claims, wherein the handle is a T-bar.

13 The ratchet of any one of claims 1-11, wherein the handle includes an interface for receiving a T-bar attachment.

14 A tool kit for surgical use, the tool kit including at least the following components:

(a) a surgical ratchet having a handle, a driver received within the handle in a rotatable relationship with respect thereto, a ratcheting mechanism interposed between the handle and driver, and a locking mechanism releasably holding the handle to the ratchet mechanism, wherein unlocking of the locking mechanism enables ready disassembly of the ratchet mechanism from the handle;

(b) at least one tool bit selected from a group of tool bits consisting of drills, taps, guide pins, screwdrivers, reamer drivers, and wire introducers; and

(c) a case for receiving the ratchet and the at least one tool bit.